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## COMPENSATIONS AND CONSOLATIONS.

In the beautiful letters of consolation and of grief between two celebrated men of antiquity, one of them advises the other to take refuge, from the affliction of a severe domestic loss, in the exertions of public affairs and the honorable pleasure of conferring benefits on his country. "Alas," he replies, "there was a time when such a remedy as you propose might have availed, and when they whom individual calamities overwhelmed could escape from their private misfortunes into the contemplation or creation of public greatness or happiness. But now all this is denied us, and every distress at home is deepened by the spectacle abroad of public affairs as disheartening to the citizen as bereavements like mine are to the man."

Such is, in no slight degree, the feeling which, for some time, has been spreading over the minds of many. A dangerous discouragement, amounting almost to dismay, has seized upon the public spirit. The good find that the most unprincipled counsels but too often succeed; the able, who will not consent to seek their support in every bad and shallow delusion, are dragged down and trodden over by every base competitor; while the Public, continually deceived in its unwisely chosen favorites, is, because they whom it preferred have proved worthless, falling fast into the still more deplorable error of believing that all are corrupt alike. If, in the popular favor, honor, worth, patriotism, capacity, experience, independence, and all that gives rectitude, zeal, loftiness, disinterestedness to public service, are continually worn by the fatal arts of the mere demagogue, so that fitness to perform one's part nobly and to serve the country usefully becomes an almost certain exclusion from popularity, what must follow? He who would rise must dismember himself of every inconvenient virtue; abilities must bend themselves, not to working out the public good, but to catering the prevailing popular passion; and all the good, who are not driven from public affairs, must at last abandon them in despair.

With this wide extension or withdrawal from the public employment, the hand in hand—general and disastrous—there is a still more general and disastrous loss of the public spirit, which, who ought to direct there in politics, except as a portion of the constituent body might yet, by their votes or their influence there, have at last retrieved them from their present unhappy condition. But in the gloom of long public adversity, the disappointment of nearly every hope, has at last engendered distrust of our institutions themselves and forebodings of a result so uniformly unfortunate, that many of them, too prone to consider public affairs as given over to hopeless confusion and error, abandon the struggle, and seek in the selfish care of their private pursuits the only remedy or compensation which public disorder and distraction can afford.

Yet, while the brave, the good, and the prudent preserve their courage and their constancy, there is always hope in public affairs. There is no nobler instance of Roman wisdom than that proceeding of their Senate after the terrible blow at Cannæ. Instead of yielding to the popular consternation or visiting upon the unfortunate commander (as would be sure to happen in this country) the wrath which could only have weakened the public spirit still more, they sent a deputation to the brave but ill-judging leader, to thank him that, after so dreadful an overthrow, "he had not despaired of the Republic;" for they knew that while they kept alive in the minds of their countrymen that loftiest of resources, confidence in our own brave spirit and in what that can effect, they could never be reduced too low for hope. Our own Revolutionary history affords a like example of magnanimous prudence in the resolutions sent by the Virginia Assembly to General GATES, after the disastrous battle of Camden.

No man can, in such a contest as that we are now waging, safely quit the field. As to withdrawing from the fight, abandoning the country to its fate, while we can yet "Strike one stroke for life or death," no man should be weak enough to think of it. Unquestionably it is well to look after our private affairs, as so many of us have need to do. But what will it profit to have done so, if meantime we suffer those to take the sway whose success can give us nothing short of renewed ruin, public and private? If, then, we go back to our fields, let it be as our ancestors did in Indian times, when every one ploughed with a rifle and shot-pouch at his back. The entire safety of all we have, public or private, is at stake. It is a question, almost now, whether we are to be a society or not; and every man should now work with one hand and fight Lococoism with the other.

THE POLITICAL BAT. When Esop, or Babrius, or whoever the Boyles and Bentleys may settle it to have been, composed his fable about that equivocal animal that thought to reign king of both birds and beasts, by being made up of either, he certainly must have had in his thoughts some political bat like that which we now have, flitting between night and day, and belonging to neither.

It was a discreet thought of a creature of that size to supplant the eagle, that only soars by day, and the wolf that prowls only in the dark, by trying to be fowl and beast at once. It flies, but not enough for a bird, and loves that doubtful time of day which birds shun: it has four legs, but creeps very poorly, and to the eyes of a beast does not look like one. It has wings disown and cuff it, if it comes forth into the air while they are there; and those that go on all fours will hold no fellowship with it, because they think it has once flown, however ill. Nothing, therefore, is left to the poor paradox of political zoology but to flutter about when honest birds have gone to roost, and, in a twilight of public affairs like the present, catch insects that are looking for offices.

It is officially announced that the Hon. ABEL P. USHUR (the present Secretary of the Navy) has been appointed to act as SECRETARY OF STATE *ad interim*.

The office of ATTORNEY GENERAL, vacated by the death of Mr. LEGARE, is yet vacant, so far as the public is informed. The duties of this office cannot be discharged vicariously, there being no provision by law authorizing an *acting* or *ad interim* appointment to that office in case of vacancy or absence.

## AS WE SUPPOSED.

The New Orleans Bulletin of June 16 says: "An English gentleman who met at Havana with Mr. Simpson, the person of that name who figures so largely in the proceedings which led to the cession of the Sandwich Islands, and who has gone via Havana with despatches from Lord PAULET to the British Government, informs us that Simpson represented to him that the seizure was without authority of Government."

Ballotings for President are of frequent occurrence on the Western waters. CLAY in every instance has a very large majority of all the votes; VAN BUREN, JOHNSON, CALHOUN, and CASS follow after; and generally in the order here given.

One hundred and sixty-five Dutch firms and individuals, holders of American State stocks on which the interest has not been paid, have addressed a letter to Mr. HUGHES, our Chargé d'Affaires at the Hague, appealing to the national integrity and honor against the dishonesty by which they are suffering.

LOUISIANA.—The election for Representatives in Congress from this State will take place in the first week of July. The candidates are:

WHIGS.	LOCOS.
George K. Rogers,	John Slidell,
Edward D. White,	Alce Labranche,
James Belam,	John B. Dawson,
John Moore,	Gen. P. E. Bossier.

The Albany Argus desires its readers to understand that the Whig press and party take sides against Repeal because "they deem the ignorant and prejudiced Irish unfit to have a Parliament of their own and better governed by English task-masters." A grosser misrepresentation could not well be penned. In the first place, the great majority of the country Whig press have warmly expressed their sympathies in behalf of the Irish Repealers. And, in the second place, those papers which have discouraged agitation in this country have done so, not that they believed the Irish wrong in their demands for a local Parliament, but because they regarded it as one of those questions of domestic policy with which foreign nations had no right to meddle. The Argus, although aware of this fact, seeks to represent the Whig press as opposed to Repeal and as sympathizing with the English task-masters of the Irish people. The only motive for such wilful misrepresentation must be a political one. But the misrepresentation and the motive are equally obvious, and, as they are likely to receive equal condemnation.—*Evening Journal*.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—The Legislature of this State, after a spirited discussion, has voted, by 136 to 84, that no railroad shall be constructed within its borders until the company shall first pay to each owner of lands which they propose to cross whatever he shall choose to exact for the privilege. This barbarian act, until repealed, knocks in the head all plans for any further extension of railroads within the limits of New Hampshire. One million of people may earnestly desire the construction of a public work most vital to the interests of all, yet one rapacious knave or obstinate dunce, who owns fifty acres of good for nothing ravine in some mountain gorge, has the power to say to the whole State: "You shall not cross my land unless you pay me five million dollars for it," and the work is paralyzed.

A bill to divide the State into four Congressional Districts, in obedience to the Congressional Apportionment act, has been killed in the House—laid on the table by 123 to 99.—*New York Tribune*.

JUNCTION OF THE RHINE AND THE DANUBE.—The canal connecting those two great rivers of Europe was nearly completed at the last accounts. It was to have been opened for navigation in a few days from Nuremberg, and shortly after through its whole extent, from the Danube to the Main. [New York Express.]

Though the completion of this great work has been reserved for modern times, its conception and commencement belong to an age and generation ten centuries distant. In 793 the Emperor Charlemagne formed the purpose of establishing a water communication from one extremity of Europe to the other, by means of a canal which should unite the waters of the Rhine with those of the Danube. With this object an army of workmen was assembled, the Emperor himself superintending and directing their labors, and for several months the undertaking was most industriously prosecuted. But sickness breaking out among the laborers, and distant wars demanding Charlemagne's attention, the enterprise was abandoned, only to be resumed after the lapse of more than a thousand years. [Albany Journal.]

THE UNITED STATES ARMY.—The improved appearance of the soldiers of the United States Army is a subject of general remark. Necessity, four years ago, compelled the enlistment of foreigners; this is now discontinued. The class of young Native Americans who now fill the ranks have greatly improved the appearance of the troops. [New York American.]

A contract has been entered into by competent persons (Messrs. TAYLOR, FASSETT, and AVERY, of Licking county) for the completion of the Miami Canal. The whole sum for which they have engaged to complete the whole job (canal and reservoir) is \$322,000, being \$45,000 less than the appropriation made for the work. Proposals were put in for the work by more than a hundred and fifty individuals.

MONEY MATTERS.—The New York Commercial Advertiser of Saturday afternoon says:

"The intelligence received since our last notice, per the Columbia, has had a depressing influence upon the market, and business in the street has been quite inactive. It was generally anticipated that the improved prices which had prevailed on this side of the Atlantic for three or four months, and the firmness with which those prices were maintained, would restore the confidence of European capitalists in our securities, and excite a disposition to make new investments. It was supposed that orders for that purpose would be received by this steamer; and it is rather to the disappointment occasioned in this respect than to anything really unfavorable in the news, that the depression which has since existed is to be attributed."

## THE WHIGS OF GEORGIA.

A Convention of Delegates of the Whigs of the State of Georgia was held at Milledgeville on the 19th and 20th instant, at which seventy-six counties were represented. JOHN MACPHERSON BERRIEN was by acclamation appointed President of the Convention.

The proceedings of this Convention were worthy of its high character and patriotic principles; and we have unfeigned gratification in being able to present to our readers the substance of them, as follows:

A committee of twenty-one delegates, appointed to consider such matters as were proper to be brought before this Convention, submitted the following, to wit:

The committee have considered the question whether it is proper for this Convention to nominate a candidate of the Whig party to fill the vacancy in our Congressional representation expected to be produced by the resignation of the Hon. MARK A. COOPER. It is a question not free from difficulty; but we hold that the law of Congress prescribing the mode of electing members of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States is constitutional; and that the election held in this State in October last in contravention of that law was wholly illegal and void; and that a valid and lawful election for that purpose cannot be held without further legislation upon that subject, either by the State or National Government. But we are admonished by the uniform conduct of the Democratic party, in disregarding law and justice whenever that party considers it necessary to their supposed party interests, and especially by their conduct in the late New Jersey contested election, not to rely upon them for the execution or enforcement of the law in this case; but we deem it the duty of the Whig party to preserve the integrity of the law by defeating the Democratic candidate at the ballot box.

Therefore, we recommend to the Convention to proceed to the nomination of a candidate of the Whig party of the State for Congress, in the event of the resignation of the Hon. MARK A. COOPER.

Resolved, That the following gentlemen be appointed Delegates to the WHIG NATIONAL CONVENTION to be held in the city of Baltimore in May, 1844, and that they be instructed to vote for HENRY CLAY as the choice of the Whig party of Georgia as the candidate for the Presidency; and that, in the event of any vacancy in the delegation, the other Delegates be authorized to fill the same:

J. Macpherson Berrien,	James S. Calhoun,
William C. Dawson,	A. H. Kennan,
Thomas Butler King,	F. M. Robinson,
Lott Warren,	Joshua Hill,
Robert A. Toombs,	A. R. Wright.

Resolved, That the Hon. GEORGE W. CHAFFORD, of the county of Richmond, be and he is hereby unanimously nominated by this Convention as the candidate of the Whig party for the office of Governor of the State of Georgia at the election in October next.

Resolved, That the name of A. H. STEPHENS, of the county of Taliaferro, be put in nomination by this Convention as the candidate for Congress to fill the vacancy expected to occur by the resignation of the Hon. MARK A. COOPER.

Resolved, That the committee of twenty-one, or a majority of them, appointed by the President of this Convention, have power to fill any vacancy which may occur in the nominations made by this Convention, and to nominate suitable candidates for other vacancies for those offices, if any should occur.

Mr. LOCKETT, a delegate from the county of Taliaferro, offered the following resolution, (the President of the Convention having retired, and Mr. Dougherty being in the chair,) which was unanimously adopted, viz:

Resolved, That in relation to the question of the Vice Presidency, the Whig party has a decided preference for the able and dignified Senator from Georgia, the Hon. JOHN MACPHERSON BERRIEN; and that our Delegates to the Whig Convention to assemble in the city of Baltimore in May, 1844, be instructed unanimously by this Convention to urge his claims to that office.

Mr. CHAFFORD, of Bibb, then offered the following, which was unanimously adopted, viz:

Resolved further, as the sense of this Convention, That the Hon. JOHN M. BERRIEN is entitled to the approval and thanks of his political friends and of the country at large for the firm and patriotic spirit and high ability with which he has discharged the duties of a Senator of the United States, and particularly for the manner in which he has sustained and vindicated the constitutional rights and independence of the Senatorial office against the unwarranted denunciations of a portion of the members of the Legislature, and their lawless assumption of a right to control him by their instructions, and to drive him from his seat for disregarding those instructions.

A committee of five was appointed by the chair to communicate the above resolution to the Hon. JOHN M. BERRIEN. The President, having resumed the chair, addressed the Convention at length upon the subject matter of the resolutions adopted, and returned his acknowledgments for the highly complimentary manner in which the body had been pleased to notice him during his absence from the seat.

UNITED STATES STEAMER UNION.—The Norfolk Herald of Monday says: "We have the pleasure to announce the arrival of the United States steamer Union from an experimental cruise, during which she has visited Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, at all of which places her means of propulsion, form, and construction met from the large number of persons visiting her very general and warmly expressed approbation."

PREBYTERIAN UNION.—The Associate Reformed and the Reformed Presbyterian Churches of the United States have taken measures to unite, under the designation of the United Presbyterian Church in North America. They are to meet, by their representatives, in Allegheny City, near Pittsburgh, on the 21st Tuesday of May next, to adopt a form of government, book of discipline, &c.

CASE OF MISS GILMORE.—This young woman, recently arrived from Scotland, and charged with murder, had a hearing in New York on Saturday, before Mr. Raper, United States commissioner, when her counsel, Thomas Warner, Esq., said there were good reasons for believing her to be insane. He therefore moved for an adjournment, in order that medical men might have an opportunity to examine her, and observe her conduct, for the determination of the fact whether she be of sound mind. The examination was then adjourned to Saturday morning next, when physicians will be examined as to her insanity.

HEMP RAISED AT ASHLAND.—We have at our office, ready for the inspection of the growing or the curious, a specimen of water-rooted hemp, the product of the farm of HENRY CLAY, at Ashland, Kentucky. A large quantity of it has lately been sent to this city for sale, some of which has brought upwards of \$190 per ton. The article is pronounced by competent judges in every way equal to the best Russia hemp. It will no doubt in a few years become one of the prominent products of this country, instead of being imported as now. Mr. CLAY deserves his title of Cincinnati, and increases the obligations due from his country in turning his talents to the excellent use of adding to its productive wealth. [Philadelphia North American.]

The late Receiver at Chicago, Illinois, Mr. PARSONS, has recently been tried before the United States Circuit Court at Springfield. He was charged with having embezzled some ten or twelve thousand dollars of public money. The trial commenced on the 15th instant, and the examination of witnesses was continued until the following noon. In the afternoon Judge McLEAN charged the jury, (the case having been submitted to them without argument,) and the jury decided the prisoner not guilty without leaving their seats. [Baltimore Patriot.]

The Cheraw (S. C.) Farmers' Gazette says that a few days since the summer residence of LAWRENCE PRINCE, Esq., situated in the Sand Hills, near that place, was destroyed by fire, supposed to be the act of an incendiary. On Monday following Mr. Prince, intending to move his family out on the next day, sent some of his servants to prepare the house for their reception, when they found it a heap of smouldering ruins.

THOMAS M. T. MCKENNAN, the able, useful, and justly popular Representative in Congress from the Washington county district in Pennsylvania, has declined being a candidate for re-election. We can readily believe what the *Washington Reporter* says on the occasion in the first part of the following paragraph; and we can from our own knowledge confirm what is said in the latter part of it, that Mr. McK.'s declension will be an unwelcome news to the whole Whig party:

"The withdrawal of Mr. McKennan from public life will be no unwelcome news to those friends and neighbors who are the every day witnesses of his usefulness, and who enjoy the pleasure of his society, and to his family it will be joyful news; indeed; but to the community at large, and the Whig party in particular, both at home and abroad, this announcement will be received with regret, that one who has done so much for his country, and who is so well calculated to be eminently useful in public life, has sought repose from its toils and difficulty in retirement."

## MR. MCKENNAN'S LETTER.

MR. BURNHAM: I observe from your paper that the kindness of my friends in different parts of the country has presented my name again for the Congressional nomination for this district. I gratefully acknowledge and highly appreciate the continued confidence of my patriotic and intelligent constituents, who have so faithfully sustained me throughout a long term of public service, and would be willing to make any reasonable sacrifice to gratify their wishes. But my interests, my professional engagements, my comfort, and my duty to my family, all imperiously demand that I should retire from public life; and I am constrained to say that I cannot be a candidate.

When I suffered my name to be mentioned to supply the vacancy in the last Congress occasioned by the decease of the lamented Lawrence, I requested a friend to announce to the Convention that I could, under no circumstances, consent to be a candidate for further elections; and as this was the understanding at the time, I am sure that none of my friends will censure me for adhering to that determination.

I have less reluctance now in announcing my determination to withdraw because I know we have in the district many good and true Whigs who can ably and faithfully represent the interests of the district, upon one of whom I hope our friends will unite, and give to him their firm and hearty support. Yours, &c.

TH. M. T. MCKENNAN.

WASHINGTON, (Pa.) June 16, 1843.

## FROM HAYTI.

The New York Commercial Advertiser has advised to 1st instant from Port-au-Prince. The principal item of intelligence is the promulgation of a Government plan for suppressing indolence, and for encouraging agriculture among the people. Out of 6,000 voters in Port au Prince only 300 had subscribed their names on the list of electors for members of the Convention which is to meet in July and form a Constitution.

UNITED STATES IRON WAR STEAMER.—The Pittsburgh American states that the iron war steamer now being built at that place for the United States service on Lake Erie is fast approaching the point when she will be ready to be taken to pieces for the purpose of shipment to Erie. Her dimensions are as follows:

Length of keel	156 feet 4 inches.
Length on deck	167 " 6 "
Length over all	176 " 6 "
Breadth of beam	32 "
Breadth over guards	45 " 10 "
Depth of hold	12 "
Height from top of keel to top of rail	17 " 10 "

The hull of the vessel is entirely of iron, except the gun-deck. There are four water-tight bulkheads atwarships, for the better security of the ship against sinking. There are four keelsons for the engine-furnaces to rest upon, and one main keelson 17 inches deep. The bottom planking is 3 1/2 inches thick, the keel 5 1/2 inches. The wheel-house and guards will be entirely of iron. She will have three masts, and be schooner rigged—be pierced for 16 guns, but her present armament will be two 64 Paixhan guns on pivots, and four 32-pound carronades. The whole will be ready to transport to Erie about the 1st of July.

## PENNSYLVANIA.

Governor PORTER has vetoed the bill for the sale of the main line of the public works of Pennsylvania, which was left in his hands at the time of the adjournment of the State Legislature. His veto message is sent to the Secretary of State, with instructions to present it to the House of Representatives within three days after the meeting of the next Legislature.

The Governor's principal reasons are: First, that the 23d section, which provides the mode for repealing or forfeiting the charter of the company in case of any violation of it, gives a perfect immunity to the company for any infraction of its charter, as it allows it to enjoy and possess all its rights, privileges, and franchises, as if said judgment of forfeiture had not been pronounced, until the Commonwealth pays to the company the par value of its stock, (\$16,000,000). The payment, the Governor says, would be a moral impossibility, and would be a temptation to the company to violate its charter, to make the State pay the par value of the stock, which was bought and subscribed at less than fifty per cent. of its nominal value by the stockholders. Secondly, he deems the measure impolitic and unwise, and though he signed a bill substantially the same for the creation of the Delaware Canal Company, yet he announced through the Legislature, that from any consideration that it would be to the public interest. He still thinks that the works would be liable to fall into the hands of foreign capitalists, and become private monopolies.

Third, income from this year will greatly exceed last year, and there is every reason for confidence and hope in the future value of these improvements. If they are sold, he says, that, if instead of confining the commissioners to taking subscriptions of stock on the terms mentioned, they were allowed to sell the stock at public auction to the highest and best bidder, in amounts to suit purchasers, an advance would probably be realized beyond the simple subscription.

THE INFLUENZA, heretofore noticed as prevailing in New York, appears to be spreading itself over quite an extensive range of country, both north and south of that place, and some cases have already occurred at Baltimore. It is said that frequent smelling at a common salt bottle, or a vial of spirits of hartshorn or ammonia, will alleviate it in an hour or so. Drawing a few deep inspirations of the volatile matter into the lungs from the mouth of the vial is also suggested.

Nine prisoners escaped from the penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, on the 10th instant, by knocking down the guard at one of the gates after it had been opened by him. They were immediately pursued, and six were apprehended, but, however, before two of them had been mortally wounded. One of these, named Buffalo Bill, who was the leader of the revolt, before expiring, confessed the particulars of the Floyd murder, and disclosed the names of the parties engaged in that bloody transaction. This desperate man had been tried for the murder of Major Floyd, and acquitted for want of evidence. He was subsequently imprisoned for passing counterfeit money.

DISAGREABLE PREJUDICE.—On Wednesday night a fellow somewhere about Front street, Philadelphia, attempted to break into a house by crawling down the chimney. He got in easy enough, but when he had started down he became wedged so fast that he could neither "go ahead" nor "back out;" there he struck, and was compelled to halt most lustily for help, which soon came. A rope was thrown him, but he was so closely hugged in the dark embrace that rope-power would not budge him; it was therefore necessary to cut out the chimney wall nearly his entire length before he was released. We think this chimney should be repaired and purchased by the City Council; it is decidedly the most successful rope-catcher we know of, for the opportunity it has had.—*Philadelphia Inquirer*.

## DELEGATES TO THE WHIG NATIONAL CONVENTION.

At a Whig Convention in the fourth Congressional district of Illinois, T. L. DICKEY, Esq., was appointed a delegate from that district to the Whig National Convention which is to meet at Baltimore in May, 1844.

At the District Convention of the Whigs of the third Congressional district of Vermont, held at Burlington on the 8th instant, JOHN PECK was unanimously elected a delegate to the National Convention to be held in May, 1844, and SAMUEL W. KEYES as substitute. Both these gentlemen are said to be warmly in favor of the election of HENRY CLAY.

The Whigs of Georgia have acted promptly and definitively in this matter—they having, as will be seen on reference to the proceedings of their late State Convention, selected a full complement of Delegates to the National Convention, under instructions to vote for HENRY CLAY.

## WHIG CONVENTION IN MISSISSIPPI.

The Whigs of the State of Mississippi met in convention at Jackson on the 12th instant, for the purpose of nominating candidates for Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, and Auditor of Public Accounts. It was one of the largest assemblages of the kind ever convened in the State. The utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed throughout its deliberations. Numerous eloquent and able speeches were made by the Hon. S. S. PRENTISS and other talented gentlemen present during the session of the Convention, which lasted two days. On Tuesday evening an adjournment was carried, after nominating unanimously the following candidates:

FOR GOVERNOR,
GEORGE H. CLAYTON, of Lowndes.
FOR SECRETARY OF STATE,
LOUIS G. GALLOWAY, of Holmes.
FOR AUDITOR,
LUKE LEA, of Hinds.
FOR TREASURER,
WILLIAM HARDEMAN, of Madison.

The gentlemen composing it are all men of high character, and as true Whigs as any State in the Union can boast.

No Congressional nominations were made, for the reason that the State has not been restricted in accordance with the act of Congress. If the Legislature, which convenes in July, performs its duty and divides the State into Congressional districts, each district will make its own nomination. But if that body refuses obedience to the law of Congress, the Whigs will take no part in the matter, but allow the election to go by default.—*New Orleans Tropic*.

## A SUBLIME SCENE.

A citizen of Erie, Pennsylvania, writing to the Erie Observer, thus describes a scene which he witnessed on Lake Erie on Sunday morning, between 10 and 11 o'clock:

"The line of the horizon upon the water was as distinctly marked as the boundaries upon a map, without an intervening object in view beyond the land upon this shore. Yet, at an apparent elevation above the horizon of nearly two degrees to its water line, a ship appeared in full and perfect view—the hull, masts, and rigging all in order, and moving majestically through the heavens. At an elevation somewhat higher (say two and a half degrees above the horizon) appeared a faint outline, which, from its shape, was supposed to be Long Point, distant about thirty-five miles; and consequently requiring an elevation above the water-level here of nearly seven hundred feet to be seen without the aid of refraction. Between the horizon and the vessel, as well as for several degrees above her, the appearance was that of a sky clear of clouds, but dimly obscured by a light mist.

"I have several times before now seen Long Point from this shore much more distinctly than on the present occasion; but it was then accompanied by a continuing appearance of the water to its very beach. The singularity of the present case is, that the water disappeared beyond the horizon, while the opaque objects above were refracted, giving them the appearance of being suspended in mid-air. A mist, such as that of the Arabian desert, is often seen in our Western wilds, but it is very seldom that the refraction of our atmosphere brings to view such scenes as the above. In other climates, where refraction accompanies reflection, several views of the same objects have been seen in the sky, as that upon the top of one would appear its counterpart with the apex reversed."

The following letter from Mr. GRATTAN, the British Consul at Boston, declining the invitation to attend the Bunker Hill celebration, turns off an awkward affair in a very pleasant manner:

BRITISH CONSULATE,  
BOSTON, June 14, 1843.

DEAR SIR: I beg to thank you for your obliging letter, and, through you, the committee of the Bunker Hill Association for their invitation to join in the celebration on the 17th instant.

Under the peculiar circumstances of the occasion I feel very sensibly the liberality of the invitation. It would have given me great pleasure, on personal accounts, to be with my colleagues of the consular corps in the place assigned to us in the ceremonies. But, on consideration, I think it better, for several reasons, that I should respectfully decline the honor intended to me by the committee, and I have no doubt the gentlemen composing it will understand my motives, without requiring of me the somewhat difficult and always doubtful task of "defining my position."

Trusting to your kindness to make known my sentiments to the other members, I am, dear sir, with much truth, your obliged and obedient servant,

G. WASHINGTON WARREN, Esq. T. C. GRATTAN.

## SLOW MOVING JUSTICE.

At the trial of Wm. H. PLATT, in Augusta, (Ga.) for the murder of Mr. HAMMOND, three hundred and fifty-three persons were "sounded" before a jury could be obtained. More than fifty witnesses were subpoenaed. The examination of seven of them consumed two days. On the 22d instant, the jury after a debate of about forty-five minutes returned a verdict of "Not Guilty."

"Thus," says the Augusta Chronicle, "it is settled, so far as the verdict of this jury can settle it, that in Richmond county, in the city of Augusta, a man may, at midday, in the principal street of the city, shoot down another without provocation, or without such provocation as the laws of the land recognize, and be turned loose upon the country, with his hands unbound with the blood of his victim, 'unwhipped of justice.' If such a verdict met any other than the execration of the great mass of our population it would indeed be a deep disgrace."

IMPORTANT DECISION.—The last Alton (Ill.) Telegraph says: "The Circuit Court of the United States for this district decided last week, in a case brought before the Court, that the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States only settled the question that the two-third or valuation law of Illinois was unconstitutional when applied to the foreclosure of mortgages; and that upon all judgments at law where the contract or cause of action accrued prior to the first day of May, 1841, the valuation law was applicable and binding, and that sales upon execution must be made in accordance with its provisions. The attorney for the plaintiff in this case has taken exceptions, and the case will go up to the Supreme Court of the United States, and in all probability be argued and decided at the next January term."

THE NEW ORLEANS MINT.—The "Greenback" of the 17th instant says: "Our mint in this city is now in a flourishing condition, and has in deposit at the present time nearly \$2,000,000, most of which is gold. It is not generally known that our moneyed men, who are in the habit of receiving large quantities of foreign gold, send most of it to this establishment to have it melted and recoined into American money. The premium on this is sufficient to cover them a handsome profit."

## DISASTROUS CONFLAGRATION IN CANADA.

The village of Boucherville, which stands on the south side of the river St. Lawrence, and about ten miles below Montreal, was almost entirely destroyed by fire on Tuesday week. The fire broke out about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and wasted its fury about ten o'clock at night, after having spread over a space of ground nearly a mile in length. A list of the sufferers, it is stated, would embrace almost a census of the village, which contained a population approximating one thousand souls, many of whom have lost all their worldly effects.

We have the latest account of the extent of this disastrous calamity in the Montreal Courier of Thursday last, as follows:

## Destruction of the Village of Boucherville.

We are sorry to say that the fears we expressed in our last respecting the extent of the fire at Boucherville have been too nearly realized. At half-past 9 o'clock yesterday morning the Colborne proceeded to Boucherville, taking a quantity of provisions for the use of the unfortunate sufferers. On reaching the village, the inhabitants were found endeavoring to collect the scattered wreck of their properties, and the scene which presented itself was really piteous. On every side were blackened walls still giving forth smoke and flame, whilst what had been beautiful gardens were reduced to waste by the trampling of the villagers as they rushed from the scene of destruction. Before this conflagration, Boucherville was one of the prettiest villages on the banks of the St. Lawrence, furnished with a number of good stone houses, which gave an air of substantiality to the place. Now it can hardly be said to have a place on the map. Fifty-two houses have been destroyed, besides other buildings. The Church, Convent, and School-house are gone; all the principal stores with the houses of many of the principal residents, are reduced to ashes. Just enough is left to show the terrible destruction which has taken place.

The Church of Boucherville was a fine building, placed in an open space in the centre of the village, and facing on the river. It was furnished with an organ and four bells. The rapidity with which the flames spread prevented anything from being saved. Of the bells, three were melted, and the fourth rendered entirely useless. The Convent, which is close to the church on the right, was destroyed at the same time. The presbytery, which is on the left, and the house occupied by the évêque, which is a short distance removed, both fortunately escaped. The beautiful garden, however, attached to the former, has sustained great injury.

Among the property destroyed were three fine stone stores belonging to Messrs. ROY and TARDIEUX, whose loss must be very great. The other storekeepers whose properties were burnt are GAUTHIER, AMIE DUBOIS, and COLLETTIER. Gauthier had two stores, both of which are destroyed. A valuable horse, several cows, pigs, and a great deal of poultry have been consumed, but it is some satisfaction that no lives have been lost. We saw one poor child whose legs and arms had been badly burnt in bringing him through the flames, but beyond a few injuries of this kind no one has suffered badly. The cause of the fire is attributed, and there is every reason to believe correctly attributed, to the statement of St. Louis, the sparks from the chimney of which ignited a stable belonging to a person named WILBERNE, and from thence the flames quickly spread to the adjoining buildings.

## PUBLIC LAND SALES.

EXTENSIVE SALE OF GOVERNMENT LANDS.—The President of the United States has issued five proclamations, each bearing date the eighth instant, and describing certain Government lands to be offered for sale at the periods therein mentioned, to wit:

In the State of